



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 10 December 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
10 DECEMBER 1968

1. Soviet Union -
Czechoslovakia

The Soviet Central Committee met yesterday and attended to the routine business of passing on the draft economic plan and budget for 1969. These drafts will be given final approval at the session of the Supreme Soviet which opened this morning. The Central Committee also heard a speech by Brezhnev which presumably included some comments on foreign affairs, although TASS did not give any specifics.

The Czechoslovak leaders, fresh from their weekend meeting with the Soviets in Kiev and faced with meetings of their own central committee and legislature in the next week or so, doubtless are anxiously testing the temperature of the breezes from Moscow.

2. South Vietnam

Some portents of a possible Communist offensive are appearing in III Corps. Elements of two enemy divisions are moving from the Cambodian border in the general direction of Saigon. A third division is going into Tay Ninh Province.

Communist message traffic is heavy and the bulk of the North Vietnamese now in the infiltration pipeline appear to be headed for III Corps. Prisoners [redacted] also report plans to attack.

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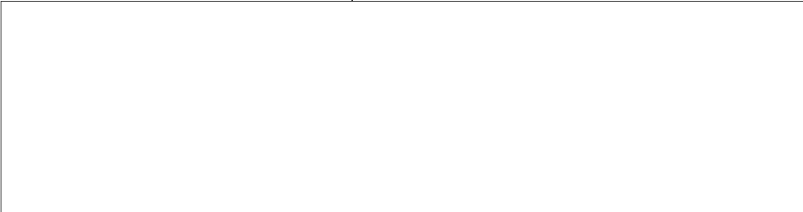
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3. Cambodia

The Cambodian Army is making a special effort to intercept allied ground reconnaissance teams operating in Cambodia. Local commanders in Kratie Province were instructed on 5 December to set up eight "ambush" positions. In this intercepted message, the commanders were told allied "spies" had been landed by helicopter and observed by the Cambodians.

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4. Philippines-Malaysia

Marcos will not make any more moves in the Sabah dispute until after the Malaysian elections next spring,



We have had other indications that Marcos plans to keep the lid on the issue. He is doing so partly to win points with the new US administration, but we suspect he is also having trouble thinking of new moves to make.

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5. Japan-Okinawa

As the Japanese legislature convenes in extraordinary session today, the opposition's campaign against US bases in Japan is coming into focus. The Komeito Party, an up-and-coming moderate opposition group, has just published the first part of a lengthy study which demands that the number of bases be reduced. The study has already been commented on favorably by the Japanese press.

Sato is feeling the pressure from Okinawa as well. Chobo Yara, the newly elected Okinawan chief executive,

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last week warned US authorities to expect further agitation and extralegal measures from Okinawan leftists who oppose the stationing of B-52s on the island.

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6. Rumania -
East Germany

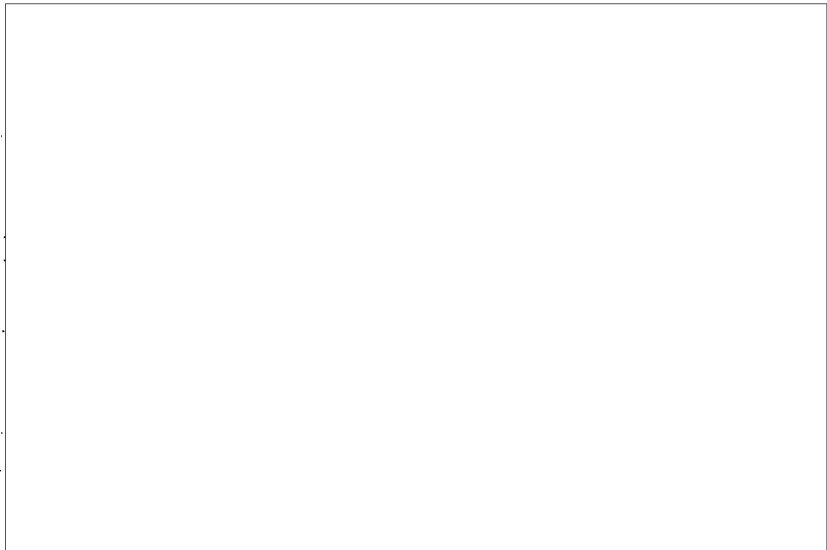
All the states in Eastern Europe still want to get along with each other, notwithstanding the differences which crystallized after the invasion of Czechoslovakia. In a classic example of this instinct, the Rumanian foreign minister turned up yesterday in East Germany on a fence-mending official visit.

7. France -
Soviet Union

There was no follow-through to the strike last week at Renault, partly because the Communist labor federation which called the walkout suddenly became less militant. Parisians are speculating that the federation got word from Moscow to cool it.

Although we have nothing to substantiate this rumor, it does not strike us as improbable. The Soviets value the detente they have achieved with De Gaulle. They have left the impression more than once that they would go to some lengths to avoid making trouble either for him or for the franc. Moreover, they have often showed concern that politically motivated labor agitation could get out of hand, as it did in France last May.

8. Soviet Union -
Nigeria



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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of US
Political Attitudes



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Local Government Reorganization: As part of its effort to restore the economy and return local controls to civilian authorities, Hanoi is currently pushing plans to revitalize its local government structure. Recent public speeches by high party leaders have implied that local authorities were pretty thoroughly neutralized during the years of the bombings as party and military officials took over at all administrative levels to enforce wartime measures and ensure the uninterrupted movement of men and supplies to the South.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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